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Financial autonomy of local governments in Poland

Paper proposal

In the proposed paper financial autonomy of local government is understood as an independence of local authorities in shaping their budgets: deciding about the revenues and expenses. Discrepancies between the level of decentralization in public services and decentralization in public finances is the constant issue of public debates as well as frequent subject of academic discussions.

The aim of the paper is to assesses the actual potentials of local authorities in the formation of their budgets. The authors analyze the recent reforms of public finances in Poland, current legal regulations and institutional solutions as well as the structure of local income and expenses. They also discuss the activities of local governments to shape their budgets and in that way upgrade the quality of public services delivered locally.